

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

ASHLEY H. THOMPSON, mother,  
JUSTIN THOMPSON, minor child,  
JORDAN THOMPSON, minor child,  
and RONALD C. THOMPSON,  
husband,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GEO MARINE, INC., and  
RUBEN GARZA, Chief Executive  
Officer,

Defendants.

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\* CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:06-cv-420-WHA

**HIPAA ORDER**

Upon compliance with Rule 45 of the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure, the attorneys for the parties and pro se parties to this lawsuit are permitted to inspect and copy all health information relating to any Individual who is a party to this case, or of any decedent or other real party in interest represented by an executor, administrator, guardian, next friend, bailee or trustee, and to inspect and copy all information relative to payment for the provision of medical care to any such Individual. Subject to the provisions of Rule 26 of the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure pertaining to the scope and limits of discovery, the attorneys for the parties to the lawsuit may request an interview with any health care providers, health plan administrators, or other Individuals in connection with the aforementioned health information and payments therefore (such information collectively referred to hereafter as "Protected Health Information"). Such health care provider, health plan administrator, or other Individual may grant or deny a request for an interview.

**This Court Order authorizes any third-party who is provided with a subpoena requesting the production of documents or commanding attendance at deposition or trial to disclose Protected Health Information in response to such request or subpoena. This Court Order is intended to authorize such disclosures under Section 164.512(e)(1) of the privacy regulations issued pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).**

Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to relieve any party or attorney of the requirements of the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure. Nothing in this Order permits disclosure of confidential communications, made for the purposes of diagnosis or treatment of a patient's

mental or emotional condition, including alcohol or drug addiction, among the patient, the patient's psychotherapist, and persons who are participating in the diagnosis or treatment under the direction of the psychotherapist, including members of the patient's family, nor does this Order permit disclosure of records or information relating to HIV testing or sexually transmitted diseases.

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to authorize any party or any attorney for any party to release, exchange, submit or share any Protected Health Information with any other person or any other entity, other than an agent or employee of the attorney or party.

At the conclusion of this action and at the written request of an Individual whose Protected Health Information has been disclosed, or such Individual's authorized representative, all recipients of the Protected Health Information shall return to the requesting party the documents and copies hereof containing Protected Health Information received by them pursuant to this Order.

Done this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

cc: S. Anthony Higgins  
Stanley A. Moorhouse